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## United States Department of Agriculture

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TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Robert Lijewski, Director /s/*Robert Lijewski*  
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Testing Basis for Stress Crack Analysis and Load Orders

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch

### 1. PURPOSE

This memorandum establishes policy for assigning the basis of analysis for stress crack testing in corn.

### 2. BACKGROUND

While reviewing load orders / cusum logs from various service point locations, it was discovered that some areas were using a subplot basis while other areas were using a composite basis for stress crack analysis. Stress crack analysis is offered as official criteria, per instructions in section 4.22 of Chapter 4, Corn, of Grain Inspection Handbook II. The instructions are silent concerning the basis of analysis for stress crack testing. A uniform testing frequency should be applied to stress crack analysis, similar to those used for other common corn factors such as aflatoxin and cracked corn.

### 3. POLICY

When stress crack analysis is requested for shiplots and unit trains, testing will be performed on a subplot basis. In addition to (but not in lieu of) subplot analysis, testing on a composite basis may also be performed upon applicant request. When stress crack analysis is requested for containers, the analysis may be done on individual containers or on a composite basis, with a limit of 20 containers per composite.

### 4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this notice with Chapter 4, Corn, of Grain Inspection Handbook II. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this notice is provided to official agencies operating within their circuit.

## **5. QUESTIONS**

Direct questions regarding this policy to Robert Dorman, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch, at (816) 659-8411 or email at [Robert.J.Dorman@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.J.Dorman@usda.gov).